

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, GJ, PDIP

SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER
GAIRY OF GRENADA AND GAIRY'S MEETINGS WITH SENIOR STATE
AND AID OFFICIALS JULY 28.- S/S 7720378

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETINGS WITH SENIOR STATE AND A.I.D.
OFFICIALS JULY 28, GAIRY EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE
DEPARTMENT'S "NEW POLICY OF SYMPATHY" TO GRENADA'S NEEDS,
WHILE BEMOANING A.I.D.'S "UNWILLINGNESS" TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE ON A BILATERAL BASIS. DEPARTMENT AND AID
OFFICIALS STRESSED USG CONCERN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS
OF GRENADA AND HER CARIBBEAN MINI-STATE NEIGHBORS, AND
INDICATED USG WOULD TRY TO RESPOND TO THOSE NEEDS BY
EXPANDING THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL A.I.D. PROGRAM AND
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WORKING TO IMPROVE I.F.I. ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY THAT
OF THE C.D.B. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD ASK A.I.D. TO
SEND AN ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM TO GRENADA AS THE FIRST
STOP OF A CARIBBEAN TRIP IN THE FALL AND TO EXPEDITE
ACTION ON GRENADA'S REVISED REQUEST FOR EXCESS PROPERTY.
GAIRY ALSO ASKED FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON
UFO'S AND AID TO THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, AND PROMISED TO

SIGN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
END SUMMARY

2. ON JULY 28, UNDER SECRETARY PHILIP HABIB HOSTED A LUNCH FOR GRENADIAN PRIME MINISTER GAIRY, AFTER WHICH GAIRY MET WITH AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ABELARDO VALDEZ, AND MADE A COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY VANCE. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED AT EACH MEETING BY AMBASSADOR WELLINGTON FRIDAY, PERMANENT SECRETARY GLORIA PAYNE, "MISS GRENADA" MARGERITE PRUEDHOMME, AND CIVIL SERVANT ANSELM FRANCIS.

3. DESPITE A SORE THROAT AND A HINT OF EXHAUSTION, GAIRY CLEARLY ENJOYED THE LUNCHEON, DURING WHICH HE AND HABIB TRADED REMINISCENCES OF CARIBBEAN LEADERS OF THE EARLY 1960'S. HE APPEARED TO FOCUS MORE ON THE EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND INTEREST BY HABIB AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN THAN ON THEIR REPEATED STATEMENTS THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GRENADA AND THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN WAS MORE LIKELY TO BE REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL RATHER THAN BILATERAL.

4. IN A SUBSEQUENT 90 MINUTE MEETING WITH VALDEZ, GAIRY GREW IMPATIENT WHEN VALDEZ INDICATED THAT 1973 LEGISLATION LIMITED A.I.D. TO THE AREAS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, AND FAMILY PLANNING. WHEN TOLD A.I.D. CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS UNABLE TO FINANCE AN AIRPORT OR ROADS FOR TOURISM, GAIRY INSISTED THAT THERE HAD TO BE A WAY FOR BILATERAL AID TO A SPECIAL CASE LIKE GRENADA. HE HALTED VALDEZ'S PROJECT-BY-PROJECT REVIEW OF THE REQUESTS HE HAD GIVEN SECRETARY VANCE IN JUNE, SAYING HE HAD NOT COME TO DISCUSS A.I.D.'S LIMITATIONS OR THE REGIONAL PROGRAM, BUT TO TALK ABOUT A BILATERAL PROGRAM FOR GRENADA. HE INSISTED THAT GRENADA SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BILATERALLY, AS A SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, NOT AS PART OF A REGION.

5. VALDEZ ECHOED LUNCHEON STATEMENTS BY HABIB AND TODMAN THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN MOBILIZING ALL POTENTIAL SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE. HE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD RESPOND TO GRENADA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. HE ALSO PROMISED TO REVIEW THE REVISED EXCESS PROPERTY LIST GRENADA HAD GIVEN TOM STUMAN (A.I.D. REGIONAL OFFICE, BRIDGETOWN). GAIRY CLOSED THE MEETING ABRUPTLY AFTER STATING HIS BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT THAT A.I.D. WAS STILL, AFTER 17 YEARS, "PASSIVELY RESISTING" HIS REQUEST FOR BILATERAL AID, DESPITE "GOOD VIBRATIONS" FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, VANCE,

HABIB, AND TODMAN.

6. GAIRY, RATHER TIRED, THEN MET FOR 15 MINUTES WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND TODMAN. HE SUMMARIZED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH A.I.D.'S "PASSIVE RESISTANCE" AND PLEADED GRENADA'S "SPECIAL CASE" FOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD ASK A.I.D. TO GET AN ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM TO GRENADA IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER AS PART OF A VISIT TO THE REGION, AND SAID HE WOULD TRY TO MEET GAIRY'S REQUEST THAT THE TEAM STOP IN GRENADA FIRST. HE ALSO PROMISED TO ASK A.I.D. TO EXPEDITE ACTION ON GAIRY'S EXCESS PROPERTY LIST.

7. IN RESPONSE TO GAIRY'S QUESTION, THE SECRETARY RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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AFFIRMED THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE A LEGAL PROBLEM ACCEPTING A U.S. CITIZEN AS AN AMBASSADOR FROM GRENADA. WHEN GAIRY ASKED THAT A U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION BE OPENED IN GRENADA, THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT WE COULD NOT DO SO, BUT THAT AMBASSADOR ORTIZ WOULD BE VISITING GRENADA REGULARLY. HE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO GAIRY'S REQUEST THAT THE U.S. CO-SPONSOR A UN RESOLUTION BY GRENADA CALLING FOR A UN BUREAU FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO'S) AND DESIGNATING 1978 AS THE "YEAR OF THE UFO." ON HIS WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING, GAIRY PROMISED TODMAN THAT GRENADA WOULD SIGN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

8. COMMENT: GAIRY LEFT WASHINGTON WITHOUT ACHIEVING HIS GOAL - A COMMITMENT FOR U.S. BILATERAL AID - BUT WITH A STRONG SENSE OF USG SYMPATHY FOR GRENADA. HIS ANTIPATHY TOWARD REGIONAL/MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE SEEMS BASED ON BOTH ITS UNRESPONSIVENESS TO HIS REAL NEED (BUDGET SUPPORT) AND ITS IMPLIED DENIGRATION OF HIS "SOVEREIGNTY." CHRISTOPHER

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